

AAUW B-C Branch Zoom meeting April 8, 2021. 48 people attended.

Sage Taber, Co-President –called the meeting to order. **Jan Horner, Co-President:** opening remarks covered the May State Zoom meeting – no reservations needed; our May Branch will be the spring picnic at Schroeder Park (see below); and a reminder that dues of \$94 for 2021-22 can be paid now, either through the AAUW website or with a check sent to Pat Shores. Sage declared minutes of the last meeting approved as read on-line.

Pat Shores, Finance Officer – reported assets at 31 March were: Operations - \$42,338.86; Dollars for Scholars - \$4,447.03; Contingency - \$815.89 plus CD of \$3058.74. The CD earned \$58.74 and has been renewed for another 13 months. Although we had agreed to fund the food costs of the Spring Picnic, held in place of our Spring Luncheon, per **Marsha Weppelman, Governance**, according to Section 2, Financial Polices, “Any additional expenditure, not approved by a line item in the budget, in excess of \$500, must be approved by the branch board of directors and voted on by the membership.” Attending members approved Pat’s motion –*“I move that we pay for the food, drink, and park rental for the Picnic in the Park on May 13, 2021.”* Although the money is available in the budget, we have to account for it by line item. Pat also reported that 41 members have paid their dues early.

Jean Elliott, past Co-President and IBC representative, gave a final report on the IBC Spring. Sixty people zoomed in, many of them BC members. Send a note to Jan Horner or Jean if you wish to view the event. The committee reviewing the Barb Lackritz Award process, of which Pat Shores is a member, decided and voted that each branch will select one person each year, based on the criteria of service and leadership in AAUW and the community, so each branch will have its own Barb Lackritz winner.

Angie Janik, Co-Vice President of Public Policy, presented slides covering the committee’s communication approach through the Friday notes and the newsletter; reminder of the 4/21/21 AAUW Member Webinar; they are targeting when the Action email comes out; we can get the Alerts by signing up on the AAUW web. Phrasing will cover freedom to vote and anti-voter bills, rather than voter suppression. At the national level, AAUW is shaping public policy for 2022-23 by revising terminology, stressing the need to reinforce voting percolating at the state levels, and providing tools to stay involved. Anyone interested, please join our committee. April is Sexual Assault Month. Reading Reality group read No Visible Bruises which covers lots of data from before the pandemic. There has been an increase in cyber sexual assault and harassment during Covid.

Susie Teicher, co-chair of Dollars for Scholars, thanked everyone supporting them by enjoying the Zoom events that co-chair Janet Sloey finds each week for the Friday notes. She was excited to report the first planned event, August 12, a visit to the St. Louis Aquarium. Cost is \$30, \$20 for the ticket and \$10 for Dollars for Scholars.

Barb McQuitty, STEM co-chair, reported that she and **Susan Fenwick, co-chair**, are delivering the award boxes to Valley Park and Maplewood-Richmond Heights. The boxes contain beautiful awards letters and certificates, plus checks for \$100 to the winners.

Marsha Weppelman, Governance, reported that By-Laws will be changing. We are removing the Named Gift program from our policies since it is no longer a state program. Marsha also explained that the new Roberts Rules of Order (2020 edition) contains a special article on electronic meetings. St. Louis AAUW has already submitted their change to the State for approval. Once State approves, membership will vote on the change. *Article XVI. Electronic Meetings Any meeting of the membership, board, executive committee, committees, task forces or other AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch groups may be conducted in whole or part by electronic means as long as all persons participating, whether in person or electronically, may hear each other and communicate in real time. Participation in an electronic meeting constitutes attendance and any official actions shall be recorded in minutes.*

Jane Hemer, co-Chair of the Spring Picnic event, ran through the details – 5/13 at Paul Schroeder Park in Manchester, 11:30 a.m. Lunch is furnished by Gioia’s; water and iced tea will be available. March and April newsletters have the luncheon choices. Please email Michelle Mangnall with your selection by May 5.

Joyce Katz, Webmaster, reminded us that our Website is a resource for members, but also an introduction to the Branch for members of the public. Susan Fenwick and others have updated the Community Service area. Please think how you can publicize the good work your group does. Events and announcements can go on the calendar page.

Sue Barley represented AAUW in addressing voting in the national AAUW election and by-law changes. Contact Shannon Wolfe for any ballot issue or lack of email via connect@aauw.org. There is the annual voting for 4 Board directors; the biannual changes in public policy priorities; and the by-law change to eliminate the required degree for membership. Sue urged us to vote. This change is supported completely by the national and state boards, as well as by every living past-president. It aligns us with gender equity, equity for all and diversity practices. There is a perception of AAUW as elitist, exclusionary, out-of-touch. We have until May 17 to vote. A quorum is 5% by law, but it takes 2/3 of the people voting to pass. **Karen Francis** said the postcards we got in the mail from State AAUW were sent out by the St. Louis tea. Angie commented that in the past there has been a lack of people voting in AAUW elections (20-22% in 2018), even though we are great at turning out for political elections. **Doris Nistler’s** theory is that in a Yes No Abstain choice, instead of 50/50 an Abstain vote is essentially a No vote. The name of the organization will not change if the by-law passes. **Mersine Kallaos** reported that the entire process was extremely easy. She researched the board candidates and voted in all areas in about 5 minutes; **Sandra Murdoch** echoed those comments as encouragement.

Other Business, Jan reported 88 members voted electronically to approve the slate of elected officers, enough to allow us to “install” the slate at the spring picnic. She asked, “Where would you like to put your efforts? The state-wide meeting, held virtually on Zoom, will be May 1. Save the date for July 8, our summer event which is not yet defined. The business meeting adjourned, followed by Carol Anthony introducing the day’s speaker, Dr. Mary Jo Gorman.

Submitted by Leslie Wier, Recording Secretary